transmitted infections, behavioural surveillance, programme monitoring and review through progress report; and (ii) building national capacities by training human resources, strengthening laboratory services, promoting and supporting HIV/AIDS operational research and preparing a medium term national strategic plan.

Study conducted by GG Indraprastha University on ground water

2513. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the study conducted by GG Indraprastha University of about 50 samples of groundwater lifted from random spots, which has revealed that concentrates of arsenic, mercury, sulphates and dissolved salts in the Capital's ground-water exceeds permissible limits; and

(b) if so, the steps taken so that this health hazard could be gradually eliminated?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

ICMR study report on Union Carbide gas leak

2514. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware'that ICMR study team set-up to study the effects of the Union Carbide gas leak in 1984, has not submitted its final report and the abrupt stoppage of its functioning inspite of deaths continuing even now due to the effect, of this mishap, points to existence of nexus between the multinationals Government and bureaucrats; and

(b) if so, the reasons why the findings of the study team are not being made public?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) As per the information

provided by Indian Council of Medical Research, the Council carried out a number of research studies on different aspects related to Methyl Isocyanate (MIC) exposure during 1985-94. The Council then handed over the data accrued and the infrastructure to the Department of Madhya Pradesh Gas Rehabilitation Centre, Government of Madhya Pradesh.

Initially there was a ban on publication of the findings of research studies related to MIC exposure. Once the ban on publication was lifted, there were many publications which emerged from various studies and were presented at different scientific conferences.

Ban on sale of fast food and cold drinks in canteens

†2515. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government on the basis of the research study report of AIIMS, propose total ban to be imposed upon the sale of fast food and cold drinks in the canteens of all the Central Universities, as well as in all the colleges and educational institutions being run by Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and Government's reaction to the research report of the AIIMS and the action likely to be taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) is conducting a trial study on fatness, cholesterol disorder and other life style factors in adolescent and young adult population. This is an on going study and final conclusions have not been .arrived at. At present the conclusion is that both lack of physical activity and adverse diet may be the contributory factors for excess body fat and related disorders.

Canteens in most educational institutions sell fast food and cold drinks in addition to traditional food items. These products have both taste as well as natritive value.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.